



The Public Education Foundation

Because young minds matter

Early Learning, Literacy and Family Engagement

The Public Education Foundation focuses on three main literacy priorities. We believe that strategic, early interventions are key to improving literacy on a large scale. Therefore, we implement the following three initiatives in high-need communities:

1. Family Learning Program

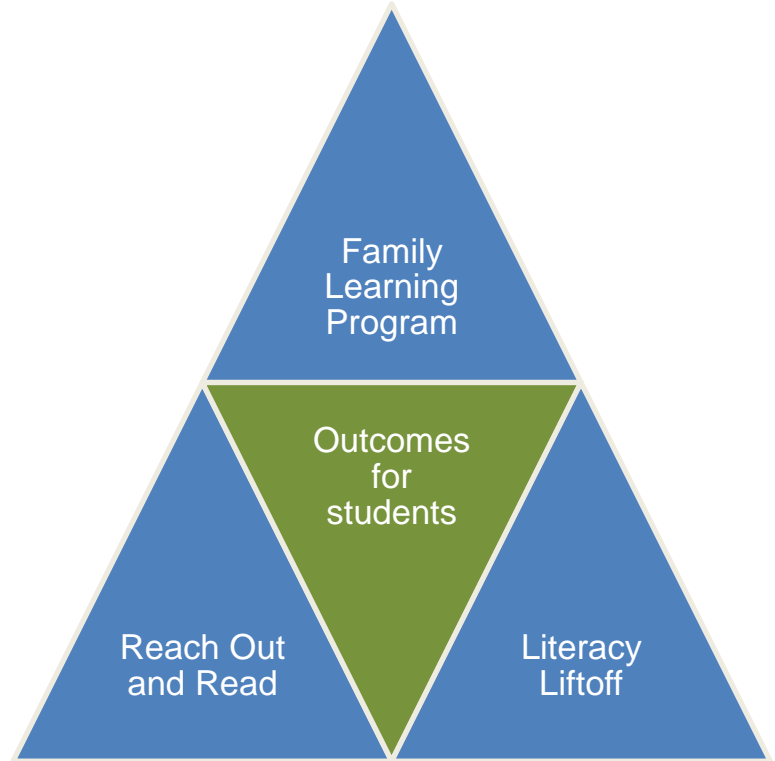
- **Theory of action:** The home is a child's first learning environment. A parent or guardian is a child's first teacher.
- **Goal:** We seek to engage culturally diverse families in their children's school learning by providing parents with opportunities to cultivate the skills necessary to help their children learn and decrease the achievement gap.
- **Overview:** Our 32-week program teaches parents English language skills and how to advocate for and support their children academically.

2. Literacy Liftoff

- **Theory of action:** The most effective way to close the literacy gap is to prevent young students from falling behind.
- **Goal:** We seek to put at-risk students on a predictable path to college and career readiness by giving them a solid foundation in early literacy.
- **Overview:** Our 17-week summer bridge program includes summertime instruction to prepare students for the school year and after-school intervention to ensure students stay on track.

3. Reach Out and Read

- **Theory of action:** If families have the necessary knowledge and resources, they will read together. Reading in the home prepares students to succeed in school.
- **Goal:** We want to help promote early literacy and school readiness in pediatricians' offices by providing children with reading materials and sharing the importance of early reading with their families.
- **Overview:** Our ongoing partnership with healthcare providers educates parents about the importance of reading and distributes books to be read at home.



In the 2014-15 school year, The Public Education Foundation served over 230 families at 9 elementary schools in Clark County's highest-need communities. In the upcoming school year, we plan to serve over 375 families at 10 elementary schools in Clark County.

The Family Learning Program (previously known as The Family Literacy Program) lasts the duration of the school year and provides families with a variety of opportunities to enrich their school experience. English Language acquisition classes help break down the language barrier for individuals who are not native English speakers. Adult education workshops focus on ensuring parents have the skills necessary for their children to succeed in school. Parent and Child Together (PACT) time enables parents to shadow the students in the classrooms and learn the same material their children are learning. Parents who participate in PACT time are then better able to assist their children with assignments when they return home.

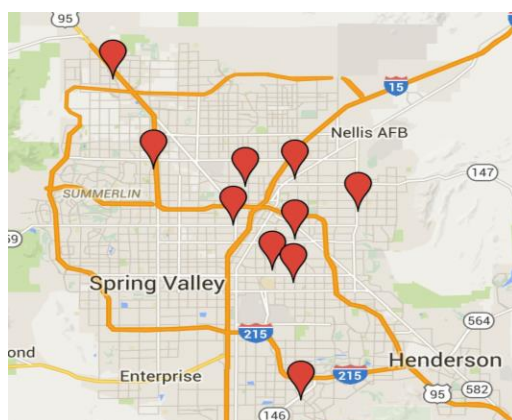
Family Learning Program Host Sites
Dean Petersen
Ruby Thomas
JT McWilliams
Sunrise Acres
Paul Culley
Crestwood

The Literacy Liftoff Program offers two weeks of summertime classes in August to prepare Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, and First Grade students for school. After the school year starts, students in the program participate in 11 weeks of an afterschool program (2 hours per day, three days per week) focused on literacy to provide them with additional support. Throughout of the program, parents participate in “Parent Tip Day” meetings, where they learn how to better support their children’s learning and development at home. In January, students and parents participate in one “Parent and Child Tip Day” workshop per week to continue to support parents and children learning together after winter break.

Literacy Liftoff Host Sites
Rex Bell
Matt Kelly
Fitzgerald
Gene Ward
Paul Culley
Crestwood

Reach Out and Read is a national campaign of medical providers who promote early literacy by giving new books to children who visit their offices. During the visit, medical providers give families information about the importance of reading to children to increase literacy skills. Since children often begin visiting medical providers at an early age, families are informed about early literacy skills nearly right after their child is born. Based on national data from Reach Out and Read, children who participate in the program score between three and six months ahead of their peers in preschool when tested on vocabulary.

Reach Out and Read Host Sites



Southwest Medical Sites
Southwest Medical at Montecito
Southwest Medical at Nellis
Southwest Medical at Charleston
Southwest Medical at Siena
Southwest Medical at South Eastern
Southwest Medical at Tenaya

Nevada Health Centers
Cambridge Family Health Center
Eastern Family Medical & Dental
Martin Luther King Health Center
North Las Vegas Family Health Center